

**Yakima River / Hanford Reach
Salmon Reports and Ringold Steelhead Reports**

Lower Hanford Reach Steelhead Fishery Update: December Summary

It was a slow month for steelhead fishing in the lower Hanford Reach this December. Only 62 steelhead were caught and 35 steelhead harvested in December. This is the lowest catch and harvest on record (2003-2016). The combination of poor fishing and foul weather keep angler numbers down. There were an estimated 333 angler trips for steelhead in December. For comparison, there were 1,151 angler trips in December of 2015 with a harvest of 215 steelhead.

The good news is anglers averaged 14.5 hours per steelhead in December which is comparable to catch rates from prior years. The steelhead return to Ringold Springs Hatchery in 2016 is estimated at 486 steelhead, well below the 2,000 to 5,000 steelhead that typically return to the hatchery.

As a result of poor returns of steelhead to the upper Columbia River, this fishery has been restricted to the harvest of Ringold Springs Hatchery origin steelhead as identified by both an adipose and right ventral fin clip. This has **not** resulted in a significant decrease in harvest as very few adipose only clipped hatchery steelhead have been observed in the fishery. Effective January 1 anglers will be able to retain any hatchery steelhead in this fishery and the daily harvest limit will remain at two hatchery steelhead.

For the season (Oct 1 – Dec 31) and estimated 367 steelhead have been caught and 232 steelhead have been harvested. There have been 2,996 angler trips.

	Anglers Sampled					Steelhead Sampled					
	Boats	Anglers		Pole Hours	Sampled (hours)	Total			ADRV		Kept
		Boat	Bank			Total	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	
Oct	46	107	423	1,730	53.3%	76	50	26	50	3	0
Nov	42	98	337	1,013	26.0%	35	21	14	20	6	0
Dec	12	26	72	276	29.5%	19	11	8	11	2	0
Totals	100	231	832	3,020	36.3%	130	82	48	81	11	0
	Estimated					Catch & Harvest					
	Boats	Anglers		Pole Hours		Total			AD+RV		Catch
		Boat	Bank			Catch	Harvest	Release	Catch	Harvest	
Oct	94	220	775	3,286		162	108	54	113	108	3
Nov	192	449	1,221	4,053		143	89	54	109	84	2
Dec	49	107	226	980		62	35	27	42	35	0
Totals	336	775	2,221	8,320		367	232	135	265	226	6